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said joining being formed by an inertia welding process.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested. No new matter has been added by this amendment. Claims 1-11 remain in the application.

Applicant elects the species of claims 1-11 with traverse.

The Examiner has rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Zhu et al. (6,032,619). Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the limitation of the bottom surface being axially positioned below the plurality of ring grooves and contends that the amendment thereof overcomes the Examiner's rejection. For example, Zhu et al fails to teach or disclose a bottom surface being positioned below the ring grooves and the joining of the head member and the skirt member being at the interface of the bottom surface of the head member and the ring band support surface of the skirt member.

The Examiner has rejected claims 2-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zhu et al. (6,032,619), as applied to claim 1 above, in view of Fletcher-Jones (5,913,960). Applicant contends that amended claim 1 is patentably distinct and when considered singularly or in combination fail to teach or suggest Applicant's claimed invention. And, since dependent claims 2-11 add further limitations to an allowable independent claim, claims 2-11 are also allowable.

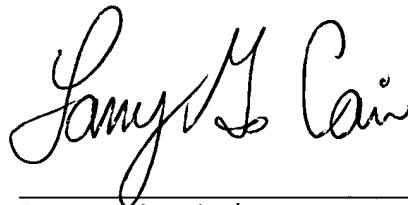
Applicant contends that the Examiner's rejections have been overcome. Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-11 are in condition for allowance.

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The remaining prior art made of record and not relied upon has been considered. None of the references now of record when taken singularly or in combination teach or make obvious the structure as set forth in the amended claims.

It is respectfully urged that the subject application is in condition for allowance and allowance of the claims at issue is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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